GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5490
ANSWERED ON:06.04.2017
Arsenic Contamination in Ground Water
Adhikari,Shri,Dibyendu

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to supply arsenic free water and planting of arsenic removal plants in the arsenic affected areas and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Central Ground Water Board has taken up National Aquifer Mapping Programme to meet the challenges of the arsenic contamination in the ground water and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other measures to be taken to address the issue?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) to (c) Water being a State subject, necessary measures to meet the challenges of Arsenic contamination in ground water are undertaken by the State Governments. Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments. Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MoDWS) has informed that upto 67% fund allocated to the States under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) can be utilized for coverage of water quality affected habitations and for tackling water quality problems.

As a short-term measure, under recommendations of NITI Aayog, Central Government as oneÂtime measure has released Rs. 800 crore on 100% funding basis to States for setting up of Community Water Purification Plants (CWPP) in habitations affected by Arsenic and Fluoride and another Rs. I 00 Crore each for the West Bengal and Rajasthan States to complete the ongoing water supply schemes in Arsenic and Fluoride affected habitations. As a long-term measure, MoDWS has launched National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM) for providing safe drinking water for Arsenic and Fluoride affected habitations and has released Rs. 814.14 crore during current financial year for completing ongoing water quality affected schemes.

Under the National Aquifer Mapping Programme, CGWB is giving special attention to map arsenic affected areas in the States of Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Further, CGWB monitors ground water quality periodically to ascertain the magnitude and extent of different geogenic contamination including Arsenic in ground water. The ground water quality data is shared with concerned State Governments for taking necessary measures.

With the objective of formulating a comprehensive plan/ strategy to mitigate the Arsenic problem, CGWB has also organized a workshop on "Arsenic problem in Groundwater and its Remediation in Ganga Basin".
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